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Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EA-10 FRB-03 INR-10 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00
USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01
AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-07 /112 R

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----------061683 171434Z /47
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: LETTER TO CHAIRMAN OF OECD TRADE COMMITTEE

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO MRS. STEEG. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED. USOECD IS REQUESTED TO PASS TEXT TO SECRETARIAT MR. POINCILLIT.
BEGIN TEXT:
MRS. HELGA STEEG
CHAIRMAN
OECD TRADE COMMITTEE
C/O FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS
BONN, GERMANY

DEAR MRS. STEEG:

WE READ YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 5 REGARDING THE UPCOMING
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MEETING OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE WITH GREAT INTEREST. THE AGENDA YOU HAVE PREPARED IS AN EXCELLENT ONE, AND WE FULLY AGREE WITH YOUR SUGGESTION THAT OUR ATTENTION BE FOCUSED ON THE NEAR TERM CONTEXT FOR TRADE POLICY AND THE FUTURE OF THE TRADE PLEDGE.

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WE HAVE ALSO CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND

MATERIAL WHICH THE SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED FOR THIS MEETING. WE ARE QUITE IMPRESSED BY THE AMOUNT OF WORK THAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY THE SECRETARIAT AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A VERY STIMULATING DISCUSSION OF THE PROVOCATIVE ANALYTICAL ISSUES RAISED IN THESE PAPERS.

WE WOULD AGREE THAT CYCLICAL AND STRUCTURAL FACTORS ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO GENERATE PROBLEMS IN OUR ECONOMIES IN THE COMING YEAR AND THAT THIS WILL BE EVIDENCED BY PRESSURES TO ACT IN THE TRADE POLICY FIELD TO PROTECT PARTICULAR SECTORS. THE SOURCE AND NATURE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND THE WAY IN WHICH WE RESPOND TO PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES ARE CLEARLY QUESTIONS WHICH MERIT FULL DISCUSSION BY OUR COMMITTEE. WE CONSIDER THAT THE TRADE PLEDGE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A VITAL ELEMENT OF THIS RESPONSE.

WE WOULD ENVISION THAT A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THE ANALYTICAL ISSUES OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW MONTHS MIGHT PUT US IN A POSITION TO EXPLORE THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS LATER THIS YEAR.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES, ALONG WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND JAPAN, HAS MADE A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL AGREEMENT ON A SUBSTANTIAL MTN PACKAGE BEFORE THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

COMBINED EFFORTS WILL BE FOCUSED ON THAT GOAL, AND WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE OECD DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THAT GOAL. MANY OF THE POLICY ISSUES WHICH WOULD ARISE IN A DISCUSSION OF SECTORAL PROBLEMS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION IN THE MTN, AND I AM SURE THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS WE MIGHT HAVE IN THE OECD WILL BE MORE PRODUCTIVE ONCE THE SCOPE OF OUR MTN PACKAGE IS CLEARLY IN SIGHT.

SINCERELY YOURS,

GEZA FEKETEKUTY
CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. DELEGATION

WILLIAM BARRACLOUGH
CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. DELEGATION END TEXT. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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